

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



GEORGE N. CAMPBELL, JR. COMMISSIONER JEFF BRILLHART, P.E. ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

FRA HSIPR Program Manager

HSIPR@dot.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, MS-20, S.E. Washington, DC, 20590

Attn. HSIPR Program

Dear Sir/Madam:

New Hampshire is enthusiastically championing the effort to take the first steps to implementing the federally designated Boston to Montreal High Speed Rail Corridor project. The restoration of intercity rail passenger service between Boston and Concord is an important step in relieving our highway congestion and pointing our transportation system towards the future for New England.

The two pre-applications attached to this letter take the first two steps to a working corridor reality. They are critical for the achievement of this goal.

The first pre-application is our "shovel ready" project to implement intercity rail passenger service connecting the two state capitals of Concord and Boston. Massachusetts already controls and operates the critical passenger corridor north from Boston to the state line, so this project will be primarily directed to improving the now freight-only portion between the state line and Concord to intercity passenger speeds. The second pre-application is for planning and engineering funding to rebuild the railroad on sixty miles of right-of-way already owned by our state. This is the only missing trackage on the designated High Speed Rail Corridor to Montreal, and the planning and engineering function is a necessity for that portion at this time.

Our Department of Transportation and the New Hampshire Rail Passenger Transit Authority invite your guidance so that we can in an expedited manner make the Boston to Montreal route truly a High Speed rail corridor.

Very truly yours,

George N. Campbell, Jr

Commissioner